

AMERICAN PIONEER.

Devoted to the Truth and Justice of History.

VOL. II.

FEBRUARY, 1843.

NO. II.

THE BEAR TREE.

[See Frontispiece.]

WE give below the description of the scene represented in the drawing; such heroic acts as are recorded of general Putnam and Mr. Merritt, which are sometimes necessary on account of the use they are to mankind, are and always shall have welcome place in the Pioneer. Those who undergo the hardships of a pioneer life, and are withal used to the dangers of a state of warfare as our pioneers were, produce a race of men that for bravery, presence of mind in peril and fortunate risk of life, will compare with those of any nation that ever lived. They are as much above that puny race of braves, whose fool-hardy daring impels them to exchange shots on the field of honor (falsely so called) as use is above abuse, and that of the worst kind. We anxiously anticipate Mr. Churchill's further contributions.

Greensburg, Ohio, August 10th, 1842.

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

I send you an account of an early incident and quite a perilous adventure, accompanied by a drawing. They are for the Pioneer, but you may dispose of them just as you think proper.

Among the first settlers of a new country, there are always found men of great courage. Indeed courage and daring are characteristic of the pioneers of any new place. All know (or ought to know) before starting for a wilderness, that they will be called to encounter great dangers and difficulties. But there is a kind of venturesome daring peculiar to the first settlers of a new country. General Putnam exhibited a specimen of this fearlessness when he ventured into the wolf's den, at the time of the first settlement of Pomfret, Connecticut. A case in my opinion of as great risk, intrepidity and danger, took place at Greensburgh, Trumbull county, Ohio, soon after the commencement of the settlement at that place. In December, 1820, there being a light snow, a man named Ichabod Merritt, with two other companions (one of whom had been a sailor,) while upon a hunting excursion, came upon the track of a full grown bear, which after following for a time, they found had ascended a huge white-wood (or poplar) tree. This had been broken off some seventy feet from the

ground, and it was supposed that the bear must have secreted itself within its hollow at the top. Unwilling to lose their game, and ready for any daring enterprise, they looked about for ways and means to accomplish their object. They first proposed cutting the tree down. But this at the root was sound and not less than eighteen feet in circumference. This with only one axe, and that a dull one, they could not accomplish that day, and if left over night the bear would escape. The sailor proposed that if a smaller tree could be felled and lodged against the large one, he would climb it to the top and shoot the bear. A beech tree was then cut and lodged agreeable to their wishes. The sailor, who had often ascended the waving mast, had now a chance to show his intrepidity upon a forest tree. He prepared himself for the enterprise, and now he began to think should he succeed in gaining the top and miss his first shot, his situation would be dangerous in the extreme. The enraged bear would undoubtedly claim the premises, especially should it be a she one with her cubs, she would doubtless claim her right and title to that elevated position, and a battle would ensue. In this case all would agree that the bear would have its choice of location and the advantage of position. In the struggle, too, the beech might be dislodged from the white-wood, and he would either fall with it to the ground or be left at the top of the tree. The first would be certain death, and the other would be no enviable situation. These were solemn thoughts for the sailor, and they probably weakened his nerves so much that it was found when he attempted to climb, that he could not ascend, after repeatedly trying, one inch beyond the assistance of his companions.

This so vexed Merritt that he told him to come down and he would try what he could do towards climbing the tree. He then slung his rifle to his hunting belt with the muzzle downwards and began to ascend the tree. This he succeeded in doing, and of getting from the topmost branches of the beech upon the limbs of the white-wood just high enough to look over into the hollow. It was dark, and all he could see was a pair of eyes several feet below him. After informing his companions and charging them to shoot the bear the moment it came out of the tree, and that he should depend upon them for protection if he missed, he fired into the tree, and then retreated back into the top of the beech and immediately re-loaded. While doing this the bear with two cubs came out of the hollow of the tree. At this moment one of those below fired, but being so much agitated, he missed. The cubs took to a limb while the old bear made towards Merritt. She was in a menacing attitude and but a few feet above him when he made a second fire. This proved fatal

and the bear fell. In falling she just brushed against him. Another hunter now coming up shot one of the cubs, and Merritt at his leisure reloaded and shot the other. He then succeeded in getting safely to the ground.

The drawing is by my brother, E. M. Churchill, quite a youth, and is said by those who saw the sight to be an accurate representation of the scene. The odd soul you see on the left of the drawing, in his precipitation broke his ramrod, and likewise his knuckles, and could not get his bullet down. He thought all was over with Merritt, and jumped around crying out "you are gone, Ick ! you are gone, Ick !" but which Ick never heeded, but calmly re-loaded and shot the bear.

Until the present year this tree has been known in all this region as the bear tree. In March last it was cut and sawed into boards ; at the height of sixty feet from the ground it was sound, and measured three feet exclusive of the bark.

Merritt still lives in this place, also the hunter who last came up. As will be inferred, Merritt has been one of those daring adventurous hunters whose exploits are worth a notice. I have known him to run down, and with halters catch the elk and tame them. Full grown elk would seldom live long, but half-grown ones would tame and then be driven to the eastern states as shows. Elk disappeared from this country about the year 1825.

My health is in a poor state ; but should my life be preserved I purpose to write a piece for the Pioneer : it will probably be "Incidents in the Life of a Hunter," in which I can give many anecdotes of undoubted truth, which I have obtained from the actor himself. In this will be described more particularly the habits of the elk and other animals.

Yours, &c.

Major Churchill



WIT.—An Ottawa chief, known to the French by the name of *Whitejohn*, was a great drunkard. Count *Frontenac* asked him what he thought brandy to be made of ; he replied, that it must be made of hearts and tongues—"For," said he, "when I have drunken plentifully of it, my heart is a thousand strong, and I can talk, too, with astonishing freedom and rapidity."—*Universal Museum for 1763.*

DRIVES.

THE following graphic and very interesting account of the drives, common in newly settled countries, from "A Sketch of the Settlement of the Township of Tallmadge, in Summit county, Ohio," is from the pen of our esteemed correspondent whose name it bears, and will be read with intense interest. The whole is well worth a place, but deferred for the present.

This region was originally very well stocked with bear, wolves, deer and turkeys. The flesh of the two last was not only a luxury, but a necessary article of food. Deer skin breeches, and deer skin facings to woolen pantaloons, (after one season's service,) were the height of fashion. Red foxes were not common. The wolf made great havoc with the few sheep introduced here; committing depredations at the same time upon the wild deer. He has been known to attack cows. The bear confined himself to hogs; and many instances are given of his boldness in capturing and carrying away provisions of this kind. He springs suddenly upon his victim, grasps him in his arms or fore legs with a force which is irresistible, erects himself upon his hind legs like a man, and makes off in an instant with his load. The piercing squeal of the hog is the first warning of his presence to the owner. A large bear, who meets with no obstruction, will make his way through a thick wood in this manner, with a hog of good size, faster than a man on foot can follow. The groans and struggles of the animal in his embrace become weaker and weaker, and soon cease entirely. One of these creatures took a shoat from a drove belonging to captain J. Hart, of Middlebury, in his presence. The captain followed him closely, but the bear evidently gained in the race till he came to a brush fence, and not being able to climb it with sufficient expedition, dropped the dying pig in order to secure himself. Mr. Edmund Strong was chopping on his land, when one of his hogs was taken near by. After a severe contest with clubs, Mr. Strong recovered the body of his hog; and, using it as a bait, afterwards caught the offender in a trap. Another seized a full grown hog belonging to A. Whittlesey, near the centre, and, notwithstanding men were near by and made close pursuit, he carried it off without difficulty.

When Mr. Ephraim Clark lived in a log house, a few rods north of the parsonage, on the same side, his hogs were fed across the road at a trough in the field. One morning, as he returned from feeding them, a large bear fell upon the hogs before he had reached the house. By the time he had seized his rifle and re-crossed the road, the bear

had secured one, and as he rose preparatory to a retreat, received a bullet in the chest. He then let the hog fall and made fiercely toward Mr. Clark, but in making an effort to scale the bars, fell backward and died.

Mr. John Caruthers and his dogs fell in with one of a moderate size while traversing the woods near the east line of the township, in search of horses. An engagement followed, in which the bear had apparently the advantage. To an early settler, the loss of a dog, his companion and faithful sentinel, was a misfortune that affected, not only his interest, but the best feelings of his heart. Mr. Caruthers had nothing in hand but a bridle, and could therefore bring no weapons to the assistance of his friends, but such dry clubs as lay about him. The animal paid very little attention to these; but at length finding a young sapling, he broke it into a good stick, and managed to give several hard knocks repeatedly on the same spot just behind the ear. By this means he was killed, and the dog released.

By the assistance of a large and valuable wolf dog, Mr. D. Preston and Mr. Drake Fellows killed one with clubs and stones at the south end of "Stony Hill."

If the body of a hog was recovered partly eaten, the same bear could generally be taken in a trap within the next twenty-four hours. He invariably returned for the remainder, and showed little or no sagacity in avoiding his fate. For this purpose a heavy steel trap was used, with smooth jaws and a long drag chain, with iron claws at the extremity. It was not fastened to the spot, because the great strength of the animal would enable him to free himself, but as he ran, after being caught, the claws would catch upon the brush, retarding his flight, and leaving a distinct trail. He was generally overtaken within two miles, exhausted of strength. Here the dogs were first allowed an opportunity to exhibit their courage and natural animosity, before the rifle put an end to his degradation and sufferings. In these conflicts, if the shackles were upon his hind legs, leaving the fore paws free, there were but few dogs desirous of a close combat the second time.

In the winter of 1824-5, the inhabitants of this and the adjoining townships, determined to make an effort to clear the country of the bear, and of the wolf at the same time. There were four *drives*, or large hunts, organized during the winter; *two* in Brimfield, one in Springfield, and one in Portage. They were frequently got up in the new country by those who were not professed hunters, for the purpose of taking a few deer and turkeys, then so common. A large tract of wild land, the half or fourth of a township, was surrounded by lines of

men, with such intervals that each person could see or hear those next to him, right and left. The whole acted under the command of a captain and at least four subordinates, who were generally mounted. At a signal of tin horns, or trumpets, every man advanced in line towards the centre, preserving an equal distance from those on either hand, and making as much noise as practicable. From the middle of each side of the exterior line, a blazed line of trees was previously marked to the centre as a guide, and one of the sub-officers proceeded along each as the march progressed. About a half or three-fourths of a mile from the central point, a ring of blazed trees was made, and a similar one at the ground of meeting, with a diameter at least equal to the greatest rifle range. On arriving at the first ring, the advancing lines halted till the commandant made a circuit and saw the men equally distributed and all gaps closed. By this time a herd of deer might be occasionally seen driving in affright from one line to another. At the signal, the ranks move forward to the second ring, which is drawn around the foot of an eminence, or the margin of an open swamp or lake. Here, if the drive has been a successful one, great numbers of turkeys may be seen flying among the trees away from the spot; deer, in flocks, sweeping around the ring, under an incessant fire, panting and exhausted. When thus pressed, it is difficult to detain them long within the ring. They become desperate, and make for the line at full speed. If the men are too numerous and resolute to give way, they leap over their heads, and all the sticks, pitchforks, and guns raised to oppose them. By a concert of the regular hunters, gaps are sometimes made purposely to allow them to escape. The wolf is now seen skulking through the bushes, hoping to escape observation by concealment. If bear are driven in, they dash through the brush in a rage from one part of the field to another, regardless of the shower of bullets playing upon them. After the game appears to be mostly killed, a few good marksmen and dogs scour the ground within the circle to stir up what may be concealed or wounded. This over, they advance again to the centre, with a shout, dragging along the carcasses which have fallen, for the purpose of making a count.

It was at the hunt in Portage that the bear were either exterminated or driven away from this vicinity. It embraced the "Perkins' Swamp," and several smaller ones, rendered passable by ice. At the close of this "*drive*," *twenty-six* were brought to the centre ground, and others reported.

Wolves were taken with difficulty in steel traps, but more readily in log pens, prepared like the roof of a house, shelving inwards on all

sides, and containing the half devoured carcass of a sheep, upon which they had made a previous meal. The wolf easily clambered up the exterior side of the cabin, and entered at the top, which was left open; but once fairly within it, he could neither escape or throw it down.

Turkeys were taken in square pens, made of lighter timber, and covered at the top. They entered at an open door in the side, which was suspended by a string that led to a catch within. This string and catch were covered with chaff, which induced them to enter, and while engaged in scratching about the chaff to get at the grain mingled with it, some unlucky companion would strike the catch and let the door down behind them all.

This town was much infested with rattlesnakes during the first ten years of its settlement, though but one instance is known of a bite among the inhabitants. There were two kinds, the large yellow, (*crotalus durissus* of naturalists,) and the small venomous black rattlesnake, (*crotalus miliaris*,) or massassauga. The massassauga frequented the low grounds, to the terror of all cranberry hunters. The yellow rattlesnake, which was very large and more numerous, kept the open dry ground, particularly fields of standing grown wheat. It is said that eleven were killed in one day in a wheat field one mile north of the centre. They resorted in the winter to a den in the rocks at the south-west part of the Stony Hill. On the approach of spring, attracted by the warmth of the atmosphere, they would come out in a half torpid state, and were killed by the inhabitants by scores. At this day, a rattlesnake, a bear or a wolf, would be equally an object of curiosity.



We will just remark, in respect to turkey pens, as they were called, the more southern pioneers constructed them as above described by Mr. Whittlesey, but instead of the door and catch, they made an excavation in the ground under one side of the pen large enough for turkeys to enter. In this, and in the pen, they strewed plenty of bait. The turkeys would enter while busied in picking up the bait, but would always look up for an opening at which to escape, and thus miss their only chance. Great numbers have been taken in this way.

IF Indians lose their fire, they take two sticks of wood, one harder than the other, and the drier the better. In the soft one they make a hollow or socket, the hard one they point at one end. Then taking the soft one between their knees, they insert the point of the hard one in the socket, and whirling it round like a drill, soon kindle a fire.

REDSTONE OLD FORT.

Situation of the ancient fortifications—The name of Redstone—Importance of the locality—Expedition of colonel Burd—Bridges at Brownsville—Building the fort—Goodness of Braddock's road-location—Name of the fort—Michael Cresap—His house—First and second settlers—Brownsville—Pack horses—First wagoning—First blast furnaces west of the mountains and west of Ohio—First steamboat voyage from New Orleans to Pittsburgh—First paper mill west of the mountains and the first west of the Ohio river—Whisky insurrection—Anecdote of Samuel Jackson and judge Breckinridge—Conclusion.

ON an elevated and commanding bank on the east side of the Monongahela river there was once one of those ancient fortifications, similar to others which have been discovered at different points through the valley of the Mississippi. When or by whom erected, remains in doubt to this day. The military skill displayed in the location and laying out of these forts, and the remains of some articles of mechanism found therein, have impressed the idea upon the public, that this country was once the abode of a race of people more advanced in civilization and the arts than the present aborigines. It is known that nothing of the kind is now resorted to for defence by any of the tribes of Indians. If then those fortifications were the work of the ancestors of the present race, a retrogression in civilization must have taken place. The scite of the one to which we have reference, was a judicious one. On the north-west the Monongahela river washed the base of the hill, on the north-east and south were deep ravines, and on the east a flat of some extent. An approach by a hostile force from either direction, could easily be discovered by those within, nor could the weapons of attack at that day used, reach the fort from the adjacent ground. Several acres were enclosed within; and near to, without, were springs of pure and limpid water.

The hills around abounded with bituminous coal, and along the water courses, where the earth had been washed off, the coal was left exposed. The inflammability of that mineral must have been known to the inhabitants at that early period, for where those exposures happened, fire had been communicated and an ignition of the coal taken place, and probably continued to burn until the compactness and solidity of the body and want of air caused its extinguishment. These fires, in their course, came in contact with the surrounding earth and stone, and gave to them a red appearance; indeed, so completely burned were they, that when pulverized they have been substituted, in painting, for Spanish brown. Many of these red banks are now visible. The more prominent one, perhaps, is that near the junction of a creek with the Monongahela river, a short distance below the fortification, and which bears the name of Redstone, doubtless from the red appearance of the bank near its mouth.

The location of this ancient work, was placed at a high navigable point of that immense valley of fertile land stretching far to the south and west, and which was at that day, if we may judge from the antiquarian evidences so frequently presented to view throughout, *the favored ground*, which is now the admiration of travelers, and which may one day form an empire, and give sustenance to millions. This was the most eastern of those ancient works and the only one in that region of country. Situated, as we have already stated, at the head of the immense Mississippi valley, it appears as if intended, as a junctional point, between the east and west, and to which the *main trail* over the intervening mountains was directed. Hence, we may suppose, it was a prominent point with the aborigines, as it was evidently of attraction to the whites in their trading excursions with the Indians. It was first known as the "Old Fort:" as those excursions were extended farther west, and similar works discovered, it was designated as the "Old Fort at Redstone;" and in after years it became known as "Redstone Old Fort," by which name it is familiar to hundreds of the early settlers of Kentucky, as the place of their embarkation when emigrating to the "bloody ground." After the successful campaign of general Forbes, in 1758, and the capture of Fort Du Quense, it became necessary to form a more intimate and accessible communication between the settlement and that distant but important post, and also the establishment of others appurtenant thereto, to prevent the predatory incursions of the savages into the settled parts of the territory.

The manuscript journal of colonel Burd, which is said to be minute and written in a very legible hand, and now among the archieves of the state at Harrisburg, states that in 1759, he was despatched with two hundred men to cut a road from Braddock's road to the Monongahela river, so as to form a more direct communication with Fort Pitt. That he proceeded along said road to the base of Laurel-hill, to the settlement of Mr. Gist or Gest, the same who is mentioned by colonel Washington in his first trip with despatches to the Indians, and also in Braddock's war, as having given some pioneer aid to that army. That plantation is now known as Mount Braddock, the family domicil of the late colonel Isaac Meason, and his descendants to the present day.

From Gist's, he diverged to the west, and at the angle of divergence marked a tree, J. B., 1759; pursuing that course, by the way of Coal run, to Redstone creek, he crossed the same to the left bank, not far from where *Plumprock* or Middletown now stands. Whilst the men were employed in cutting out the road, he reconnoi-

tered the country by pursuing that stream to its junction with the Monongahela river, thence up that river about a mile to where it is joined by the *Nemocalling* creek, now known as Dunlap's creek, separating the two boroughs of Brownsville and Bridgeport, and over which there has been a succession of bridges of different descriptions and structures, one of which was a chain bridge, of the kind patented by the Hon. James Finley of this county. This bridge, suspended partly over the land and partly over the water, at the height of twenty-five to thirty feet, fell with a terrible crash early in the year 1820. It was covered with snow to a considerable depth, and gave way under that and the weight of a large road wagon heavily laden with merchandize. The teamster fell into the water, and escaped with very little injury, his wagon upon land, which prevented much damage to the goods. The wagon and team were much injured, several of the horses being either killed or drowned. Over this creek now, on the route of the national road, there is a bridge entirely of cast iron. This bridge is about eighty feet span, built at the expense of the United States government. It is the only one of the kind, and probably the most splendid piece of bridge architecture in the United States. It is worth a journey of hundreds of miles to view it.

To return to colonel Burd. On the high bank of the Monongahela and *Nemocalling* creek, he built a fort. We have seen it stated in a creditable work, that the fort at that time was built by captain Paull; that was doubtless an error, as the journal of colonel Burd is ample evidence to settle that matter. The probability is, that after the accomplishment of the object for which the commanding officer was sent, he placed captain Paull in command, and returned to report. We have been more minute in detailing the route of colonel Burd than we should otherwise have been, for the purpose of evidencing the accurate knowledge of the country at that day, and the judicious selection of the route; inasmuch as colonel Williams, Thomas Moore, and John Kerr, the first commissioners appointed by government for locating the national road, after a laborious and minute examination, very nearly pursued the route of Braddock's road and that of colonel Burd to reach the same point; and although a departure took place at the formation of the road, we believe it has ever been considered by those acquainted with the two routes, that the original location of the commissioners was the most practicable and of easy grade. The gentleman from whom we received the information relative to the journal of colonel Burd, has been engaged in collecting materials for a work. From his apparent qualifications and industry, it will doubt-

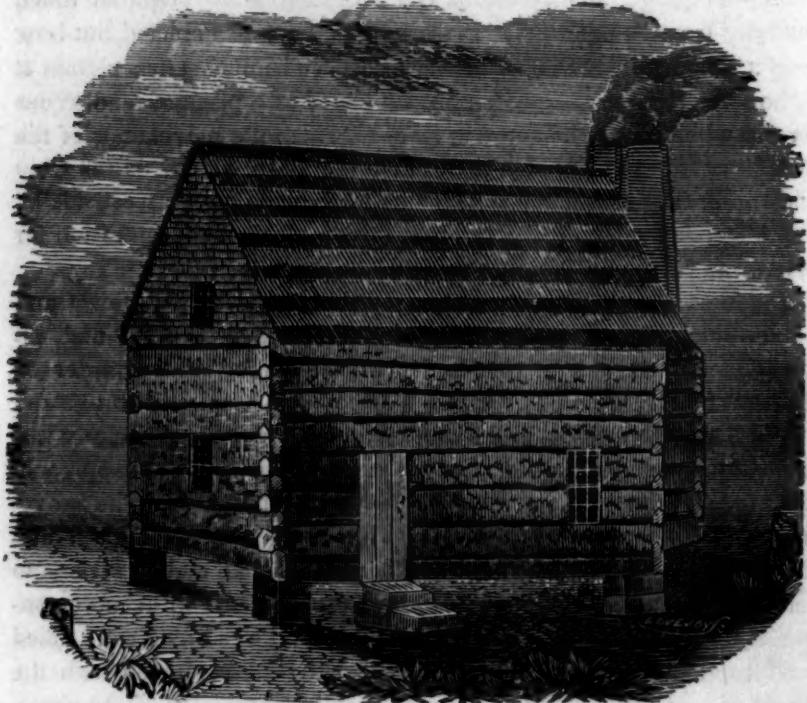
less be interesting, and we hope he will give copious extracts from that journal.

The name given to the fort at that time constructed, was "Fort Burd." Novelty had not so much charm then as in more modern times. They were tenacious of changing their old for new names, and so accustomed had the traders and hunters been with that of "Redstone Old Fort," that they did not abandon it. Hence, Fort Burd was merged into Redstone Old Fort, and never acquired much celebrity from its paternity. Block houses were also erected, but how long it remained a stationed military post we cannot state; certain it is, however, that it retained its pre-eminency as a place of rendezvous for the white men, who acted as *spies* to watch the movements of the numerous tribes of Indians inhabiting the head waters of the Ohio and tributaries; and when settlements were made on the west side of the Allegheny ridge, it was resorted to as a place of concentration for defence in cases of alarm or expected attacks.

Amongst the distinguished men of that day, for endurance and boldness in savage warfare, was captain Michael Cresap; and, although coupled and stigmatized with the unfortunate murder of Logan's family, we are nevertheless disposed to admire his brave and adventurous disposition, and award to him a credit for the many rescues of the whites, by the timely notices of the savages' approach, acquired by him in his vigilant watchfulness of their warlike movements. This fort was captain Cresap's rallying place for himself and those under his direction. Thither they resorted at stated periods to interchange views and adopt plans for future action; or at more congenial times, when the warlike dispositions of the red men were lulled into inaction, and the tomahawk and scalping knife, stained with the blood of innocent victims, were converted into emblems of the chase. To those hardy men, these were periods of conviviality. The days were spent in athletic exercises, and in the evenings, around a "huge log fire," they would recount their respective adventures and hair-breadth escapes; or if perchance a *fiddle* or a *jewsharp* was possessed by any of the inmates, it was occasionally brought into requisition, and the monotony disturbed by the hilarity of a *stag dance*.

The scrutinizing mind of Cresap discovered, at that early day, that this location would, at a future period, become valuable, and accordingly took measures to secure a Virginia title, by a tomahawk improvement, to several hundred acres, embracing the fortification. Not content, however, with girdling a few trees and blazing others, he determined to make his object sure, and that a construction of the act for the deed could not be given to his measures, he built a *hewed log*

house with a shingle roof nailed on—a drawing of which is herewith given. That is believed to have b n the first shingled house west of the mountains in that part of the great domain. We have not the data to fix the precise year of its erection, but from circumstances suppose it to have been about the year 1770. He retained the title for years, and disposed of it to Thomas and Basil Brown, brothers, who had come from Maryland.



[Michael Cresap's house at Redstone Old Fort.]

The establishment, from 1770 to 1774, of several stockade forts at different points on the Ohio, with intermediate private ones and block-houses, restricted the operations of the savages, pretty much, to the west side of that stream, and intercepted marauding parties upon the settlements on the east side. Security being thus measurably given to the settlements on the Monongahela, induced others to join, and the country became rapidly populated. The emigration was principally from Maryland and Virginia, many bringing with them their slaves and the impression that they would be within the limits of the “Old Dominion;” nor were they apprised of the mistake until the line was actually run by the commissioners of the two states. Such of them as retained a prepossession for the customs, habits, and laws

of their native state, disposed of their improvements and descended the river to Kentucky, as more congenial to their desire. These removals gave place to many of the society of Friends from Chester county, Pennsylvania, and from New Jersey. In 1785, the town of Brownsville was laid out on the site of the old fortification. The rapid settlement of Kentucky, which was then taking place, gave to this point a celebrity as a place of embarkation. Employment was given to mechanics of different kinds, particularly *boat builders*, for the construction of *Kentucky boats*, as they were called, in contradistinction to the *Orleans boats*, which were of a larger and better finished kind, having a longer voyage to undergo. By means of these boats, the emigrants, with their families, slaves, and horses, descended to the place of debarkation, which was generally at Limestone, now Maysville. Supplies necessary, not merely for their consumption during the voyage, but for six and twelve months thereafter, were generally procured and carried with them, as well as agricultural and other necessary heavy implements, which could not easily be brought with them from the east. This was of great benefit to the farmers and mechanics, as it gave a market for their productions and an impetus to the improvement of the town and country.

Hitherto the settlers had to depend principally for their necessities, such as iron, nails, salt, and many other things, upon the towns of Hagerstown and Winchester, whither they resorted with their pack-horses carrying furs, ginseng, snakeroot, &c., to barter. In 1787, several stores, with what was then considered good stocks of goods, were established, and finding it their interest to supply the articles necessary for a new country, they necessarily drew the attention of the settlers, and in a few years dispensed with their eastern trips for the obtaining of supplies. The merchandise, salt, &c., was still brought out on pack-horses; two men could manage ten or fifteen horses, carrying each about two hundred pounds, by tying one to the other in single file; one of the men taking charge of the lead horse to pioneer, and the other the hinder one to keep an eye on the proper adjustment of the loads and to stir up any that appeared to lag. Bells were indispensable accompaniments to the horses, by which their position could be more easily ascertained in the morning when *hunting* up, preparatory to a start. Some grass or leaves were inserted into the bell to prevent the clapper from operating during the travel of the day.

The *first wagon load* of merchandise that was brought over the mountains on the *southern route* or that now nearly traversed by the national road, was in 1789. They were for Jacob Bowman, who

had settled at Brownsville as a merchant in 1787, and is still residing at that place. The wagoner was John Hayden, who also resided in Fayette county, until his death, a few years ago. He drove four horses, brought out about twenty hundred pounds, for which he received three dollars per hundred, and was nearly a month making the trip to and fro, from Hagerstown, Maryland, a distance of about one hundred and forty miles. By means of the great improvement in the road, six horses will now haul seventy or eighty hundred, between the same places, in seven days, for one dollar per hundred.

The great demand for iron in its various ramifications, and the expense of transportation from the east, caused an early and successful discovery of the ore in the mountainous regions thereabouts. The first blast furnace west of the mountains was erected on Dunbar creek, about fifteen miles east of Brownsville, by colonel Isaac Meason, John Gibson, and Moses Dillon, the latter of whom afterwards settled in Ohio and erected similar works on Licking, near Zanesville, and, for aught we know, it was the first furnace in the "Buckeye state." The first abovementioned was called "Union furnace," and was successfully carried on for many years. Others were soon added, and the number increased in a few years to fifteen or twenty, such being the great demand for their productions to supply that immense and fertile western valley. To several, forges were added as accompaniments, by which the metal was converted, by means of heavy hammers, into bar iron.

The facility of obtaining the raw material and the abundance of bituminous coal for working it, caused the establishment of various manufactories in this section. Amongst them we may name that of a steam engine shop, under the direction of David French, in Bridgewater, from which emanated an engine which was put on board the hull of the steamer Enterprize in 1814. The hull of this boat had also been built and belonged to a company there. *She was the first steamer that ever ascended the Mississippi and Ohio rivers from New Orleans to Pittsburgh.* Some notice was taken of this boat on pages 37 and 69 of the first volume of the Pioneer.

[We believe this first voyage was prosecuted from New Orleans to Brownsville.—ED.]

In 1796, Samuel Jackson and Jonathan Sharpless, two ingenious mechanics of the society of Friends, who had been raised in the neighborhood of the extensive paper mills of the Gilpins, on Brandywine, erected and put into operation the "Redstone Paper Mill," four miles east of Brownsville. This was the first manufactory of the

kind west of the mountains. The second was that on Little Beaver creek, erected in 1805-6, by John Beaver, Jacob Bowman, and John Coulter, and called the "Ohio Paper Mill," being within the limits of that state.

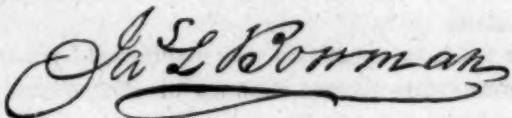
In 1794, an opposition was manifested by many of the citizens of the four south-western counties of Pennsylvania to the act of congress, levying a tax on distilled liquor, which eventually broke out in open resistance, and is known as the "whisky insurrection." The territorial centre of their operations was at Parkinson's Ferry, now Williamsport, on the Monongahela; but as some of the citizens of Fayette county participated, and that county was famous for her numerous distilleries, meetings of the insurgents were held at Brownsville.

Samuel Jackson, who was of the society of Friends, and conscientiously opposed to distillation, favored the acts of government as a means of suppression. He had *dubbed* one of the insurgent meetings a *scrub congress*. It gave umbrage to them, and at a subsequent meeting it was proposed that a file of men should be dispatched to the residence of Samuel, about a mile distance therefrom, and bring him before them for condemnation and punishment. Samuel did not altogether like the *visit* nor the *intent* of his visitors, and being a large athletic man, might have given them some *trouble* had he laid aside *broad-brim* and *drabby*; but being a man of *peace*, he submitted without resistance, and accompanied his escort, with his peculiar and accustomed step, his long arms thrown crosswise behind, with as much *thoughtfulness* as if he were going to one of his own "*fourth day meetings*." The late judge Breckenridge, who was of the assemblage, was personally acquainted with Samuel and entertained a friendly regard for him, mounted the stand and commenced a harangue, in which he admitted that Samuel had been remiss in applying so *opprobrious* an epithet to so *august* and *legitimate* an *assembly* of *sovereign people*, but that he attributed it more to a want of reflection on his part than to any enmity or design; and the best retaliation would be to pay him in his own coin, by stigmatizing him as a *scrub Quaker*. It had the intended effect. The insurgents took with it, and Samuel was discharged with the appellation of being a *scrub Quaker*. Had it not been for the turn thus given to it by judge Breckenridge, it is very likely that Samuel would have been injured in his person or, as others had been, in the destruction of his property.

We might proceed to name other manufactories claiming priority of establishment; but having already *drawn out* this article to a

greater length than originally intended, we shall for the present desist by expressing a hope for success in your undertaking.

Respectfully, yours,



BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN.

Forces collected—Pursuit of the enemy—Position of the armies—Battle and victory—Loss and gain—Retreat—Condemnation and execution of nine tories—Generosity of major Mc'Dowal and return home—Diet of the army—Tribute of respect to the officers.

MR. J. S. WILLIAMS,

As well as I can remember, some time in August, in the year 1780, col. McDowell, of N. Carolina, with three or four hundred men, fled over the mountains to the settlements of Holstein and Wataga, to evade the pursuit of a British officer by the name of Ferguson, who had the command of a large detachment of British and tories. Our militia speedily embodied, all mounted on horses—the Virginians under the command of colonel William Campbell, and the two western counties of North Carolina (now Tennessee) under the colonels Isaac Shelby and John Sevier, and as soon as they joined McDowell, he recrossed the mountains and formed a junction with colonel Cleveland, with a fine regiment of North Carolina militia. We were now fifteen or eighteen hundred strong, and considered ourselves equal in numbers, or at least a match for the enemy, and eager to bring them to battle; but colonel McDowell, who had the command, appeared to think otherwise, for although Ferguson had retreated on our crossing the mountains, he kept us marching and counter-marching, for eight or ten days without advancing a step towards our object. At length a council of the field-officers was convened, and it was said in camp, how true I will not pretend to say, that he refused in council to proceed without a general officer to command the army, and to get rid of him, the council deputed him to general Green, at head-quarters, to procure a general. Be this as it may, as soon as the council rose colonel McDowell left the camp, and we saw no more of him during the expedition.

As soon as he was fairly gone the council reassembled and appointed colonel William Campbell our commander, and within one hour after we were on our horses and in full pursuit of the enemy. The British still continued to retreat, and after hard marching for

some time, we found our progress much retarded by our footmen and weak horses that were not able to sustain the duty. It was then resolved to leave the foot and weak horses under the command of captain William Neil, of Virginia, with instructions to follow as fast as his detachment could bear. Thus disengumbered we gained fast upon the enemy. I think on the seventh day of October, in the afternoon, we halted at a place called the Cow Pens, in South Carolina, fed our horses and eat a hearty meal of such provisions as we had procured, and by dark mounted our horses, marched all night and crossed Broad river by the dawn of day, and although it rained considerably in the morning, we never halted to refresh ourselves or horses. About twelve o'clock it cleared off with a fine cool breeze. We were joined that day by colonel Williams, of South Carolina, with several hundred men, and in the afternoon fell in with three men who informed us that they were just from the British camp, that they were posted on the top of King's mountain, and that there was a picket-guard on the road not far ahead of us. These men were detained least they should find means to inform the enemy of our approach, and colonel Shelby, with a select party undertook to surprise and take the picket; this he accomplished without firing a gun or giving the least alarm, and it was hailed by the army as a good omen.

We then moved on, and as we approached the mountain the roll of the British drum informed us that we had something to do. No doubt the British commander thought his position a strong one, but the plan of our attack was such as to make it the worst for him he could have chosen. The end of the mountain to our left descended gradually to a branch; in front of us the ascent was rather abrupt, and to the right was a low gap through which the road passed. The different regiments were directed by guides to the ground they were to occupy, so as to surround the eminence on which the British were encamped; Campbell's to the right, along the road; Shelby's next, to the left of him; Sevier's next, and so on, till last the left of Cleveland's to join the right of Campbell's, on the other side of the mountain, at the road.

Thus the British major found himself attacked on all sides at once, and so situated as to receive a galling fire from all parts of our lines without doing any injury to ourselves. From this difficulty he attempted to relieve himself at the point of the bayonet, but failed in three successive charges. Cleveland, who had the farthest to go, being bothered in some swampy ground, did not occupy his position in the line till late in the engagement. A few men, drawn from the

right of Campbell's regiment, occupied this vacancy; this the British commander discovered, and here he made his last powerful effort to force his way through and make his escape: but at that instant Cleveland's regiment came up in gallant style; the colonel, himself, came up by the very spot I occupied, at which time his horse had received two wounds, and he was obliged to dismount. Although fat and unwieldy, he advanced on foot with signal bravery, but was soon remounted by one of his officers, who brought him another horse. This threw the British and tories into complete disorder, and Furguson seeing that all was lost, determined not to survive the disgrace; he broke his sword, and spurred his horse into the thickest of our ranks, and fell covered with wounds, and shortly after his whole army surrendered at discretion. The action lasted about one hour, and for most of the time was fierce and bloody.

I cannot clearly recollect the statement of our loss, given at the time, but my impression now is that it was two hundred and twenty-five killed, and about as many or a few more wounded; the loss of the enemy must have been much greater. The return of the prisoners taken was eleven hundred and thirty-three, about fifteen hundred stand of arms, several baggage wagons, and all their camp equipage fell into our hands. The battle closed not far from sun-down, so that we had to encamp on the ground with the dead and wounded, and pass the night among groans and lamentations.

The next day, as soon as we could bury our dead and provide litters to carry our wounded, we marched off to recover the upper country for fear of being intercepted by a detachment from the army of lord Cornwallis, for we were partly behind his quarters, between him and the British garrison of Ninety-six. A British surgeon, with some assistants, were left to attend their wounded, but the wounded tories were unprovided for, and their dead left for their bones to bleach upon the mountain. That afternoon we met captain Neil coming on with his detachment, and encamped for the night on a large deserted tory plantation, where was a sweet potato patch sufficiently large to supply the whole army. This was most fortunate, for not one in fifty of us had tasted food for the last two days and nights, that is, since we left the Cow Pens. Here the next morning we buried colonel Williams, who had died of his wounds on the march the day before. We still proceeded towards the mountains as fast as our prisoners could bear.

When we had gained a position, where we thought ourselves secure from a pursuit, the army halted for a day, and a court was detailed to enquire into various complaints against certain tories for

murders, robberies, house-burnings, &c. The court found upwards of forty of them guilty of the crimes charged upon them, and sentenced them to be hung; and nine of the most atrocious offenders were executed that night by fire-light, the rest were reprieved by the commanding officer.

We set off early next morning, and shortly after the rain began to fall in torrents, and continued the whole day; but, instead of halting, we rather mended our pace in order to cross the Catawba river before it should rise and intercept us; this we effected late in the night and halted by a large plantation, when major McDowell (brother to the colonel, and who commanded his brother's regiment the whole route, and was a brave and efficient officer) rode along the lines and informed us that the plantation belonged to him, and kindly invited us to take rails from his fences and make fires to warm and dry us. I suppose every one felt grateful for this generous offer, for it was rather cold, being the last of October, and every one, from the commander-in-chief to the meanest private, was as wet as if he had been just dragged through the Catawba river. We rested here one day, and then proceeded, by easy marches, to the heads of the Yadkin river, where we were relieved by the militia of the country and permitted to return home, which those of us who had not fallen in battle or died of wounds, effected some time in November.

During the whole of this expedition, except a few days at our outset, I neither tasted bread or salt, and this was the case with nearly every man; when we could get meat, which was but seldom, we had to roast and eat it without either: sometimes we got a few potatoes, but our standing and principal rations was ears of corn, scorched in the fire or eaten raw. Such was the price paid by the men of the Revolution for our independence.

Here I might conclude, but I cannot forbear offering a small tribute of respect to the memory of our commanding officers. Colonel Williams fell; Cleveland I have already spoken of; Sevier I did not see in the battle, but his bravery was well attested; three times my eye fell upon our gallant commander, calm and collected, encouraging the men and assuring them of victory. At the close of the action, when the British were loudly calling for quarters, but uncertain whether they would be granted, I saw the intrepid Shelby rush his horse within fifteen paces of their lines and command them to lay down their arms and they should have quarters. Some would call this an imprudent act, but it showed the daring bravery of the man. I am led to believe that three braver men or purer patriots never trod the soil of freedom than Campbell, Shelby, and Sevier.

On page 334, vol. i., for "Wm. Cook" read "Wm. Cock;" on page 335, instead of "preserve," say "*pursue* my father," and instead of "Robert Hasold," read "Robert Harrold."

Very respectfully, yours,

Benj. Sharp
B

Jno. S. Williams, Esq.

MR. BURLINGAME'S LETTER.

WE have several times, in some sort, attempted to apologize to contributors for the delay of some of their valuable contributions; and if apologies were ever necessary we think it is here. There are several causes why these delays occur, besides those that become known to the contributors. Sometimes pieces are in type and are found to be either too long or too short for the space consigned to them; they are then set aside, and perhaps it may be some months before a place can be assigned them. We had one piece last year near six months in type before we could make it fit. The present length of our numbers will, to some extent, relieve us of this difficulty, and we hope there will be less need of apologies in future. We intend to act impartially; and having made this explanation and avowal, we shall make no more public apologies this year, at least. We do hope to hear from our friend Burlingame again, and that soon.

Near Zanesville, July, 1842.

MR. WILLIAMS—You have expressed a hope that I would contribute to the pages of the Pioneer—that I would give you my pioneer anecdotes, my backwood's scrapes, my privations, &c. Now, as for myself, I have none of these to give. I was born in 1796, of course after the close of the Indian war. I am not accustomed to writing paragraphs for the press, but will give you a short sketch of my father's history.

Christopher Burlingame was born and brought up in Providence, Rhode Island; he died at his residence near Marietta, in this state, in July last, aged eighty-seven years. At the commencement of the war of the Revolution, he engaged in a cruise of privateering. While sailing among the West India islands he was taken prisoner by the British, and an effort was made by his captors to induce him to engage in the service of king George. He was kept on short rations for several days, and threatened with other punishment in case he did not yield, but he steadily resisted, and determined to escape from them if possible. This was effected in the following manner:—The vessel in

which he lay, rode at anchor about two miles from one of the islands, and having learned one day that the ship would sail the next, he resolved to leave her that night. Having made his observations through the day, he waited until "darkness covered the face of the deep," when he let himself down quietly into the water, and struck out boldly for the land. After swimming about half way, as he supposed, falling in with a ship's buoy and being weary, although a good swimmer, he rested himself upon it, and tried to cut it loose, but lost his knife in the attempt. Leaving the buoy, he swam until within about half a mile of the shore: he came alongside of a ship at anchor, and, feeling very much exhausted he thought to give himself up. Getting on board, he found a sailor on deck asleep: he gave him a shake or two to arouse him; but as the sailor slept hard he let him sleep on, and having rested himself sufficiently took to the water again and escaped to land. After beating about the island for several days, and until the deserted vessel had left the coast, Mr. Burlingame got on board of a vessel that lay in the harbor, which was to leave for the American coasts in a day or two. This vessel was subsequently taken by the Yankees, and Mr. Burlingame was again in the hands of those who treated him as an enemy, notwithstanding he protested that he was an American citizen, and related the incidents of his voyage, capture, re-capture, &c. He was finally set at liberty, chiefly through the instrumentality of a fellow apprentice of his, by the name of Barton, afterward general Barton, father of Robert C. Barton, one of general Harrison's captains at the battle of Tippecanoe.

Soon after Mr. Burlingame's return to Providence, he joined a company of minute men, and ere long entered the army under Washington. He was at the battle of Princeton, and his account of that affair, the stream of water, the fires kept up by a small party to deceive the British, &c., corresponds with the account of Mr. Berry, published in the *Pioneer*, vol. i. p. 184.

When peace was restored and the soldiers of the Revolution returned to private life, Mr. B. married a daughter of general Rufus Putnam, and emigrated to the Ohio, with him. Here he shared in the hardships and privations common to the pioneers of that day. I suppose that Mr. B. was one of the first captains of militia in Ohio; and I have heard him say, that Lewis Cass, our present minister to France, was his orderly sergeant. Thus general Harrison commenced his military career as an humble ensign, and general Cass commenced his as a sergeant of militia. What may not young men of talents and enterprise aspire to in this land of liberty and equality!

During the Indian war my people were occupants of Campus Mar-

tius, or the stockade, as it was called for years afterward, and is to this day for aught that I know. I have drank water from the old well of Fort Harmer, whose wall "is now seen projecting from the upright face of the bank." The scite of the old fort was my play ground in my school-boy days. The ground-swallows made their nests in the steep banks of the river, and in the evening would be seen skimming over the water, while the king-fisher sat upon its bank, or with his shrill cry, darted to the surface of the water for his prey. The white-gull, too, was sometimes seen sailing over the face of the water.

I have often heard my mother tell of governor Meigs' danger, with other border incidents. In my boyhood, Marietta (on the river) was called "the point," Campus Martius, "the stockade," and Fort Harmer, "point Harmer."

Yours, &c.

Edwin Burlingame.

WILLIAM WHIPPLE'S LETTERS.

No. V.

Portsmouth, June 29, 1778,

My Dear Sir—I have sometime expected to be favored with a line from you, but have not yet been so happy, though by other hands I have had the pleasure to hear of your arrival. I hope by this time your colleague has happily passed through the small-pox—please present my best regards to him; I could wish to be informed of his health, how he likes his present employment, &c., &c. by his own hand.

Common fame says the British commissioners are arrived: if, as I suppose, you have had a message from them before this time, it would give me great pleasure to know how they or their message are received, though I doubt not they will be treated with a firmness and dignity becoming an American congress.

I wish I had something new or entertaining to give, but I have not; we have not even had any prizes lately arrived, but several of our privateers have been taken, and the jails at Halifax are full of American prisoners, where they are treated as usual, some compelled to go on board their ships, others starved to death in prison. By the last accounts, between four and five hundred were there treated in the most inhuman manner by those barbarians, who still laugh at our threats of retaliation, and well they may when our officers suffer

themselves to be insulted in the grossest manner by prisoners; general Phillips' letter to general Heath, is an instance of their insufferable impudence—but I must quit this subject, for I find the recollection of those matters will soon put me out of all temper.

I find it is determined to go on with the ships that were originally designed for 74's, on a plan that is proposed by Mr. Landais. This plan I have been informed of, and am much surprised that the committee should adopt it, for sure I am those ships never will be got to sea with two tiers of guns. I cannot conceive what arguments Mr. Landais could use to persuade the committee that a ship with fifty-six twenty-four and eighteen pounders, on two decks, will fight as good a battle as a seventy-four that carries fifty-six, fifty-two, and eighteen pounders, besides her quarter-deckers. The fifty-six gun ship is under the same disadvantage of fighting her heaviest guns between decks, that a seventy-four is; her lower guns will be as near the water, within a small trifle, as the seventy-four's. But she is to cost much less, that is true; she will cost as much less as fifty-six guns will cost less than seventy-four, and that, I am sure, is all the difference in the cost. But then, again, she will require fewer men; that I also agree to: she will not require as many men by one hundred as a seventy-four. She is also to sail much faster, as she will swim two or three inches lighter; it is probable she may sail a trifle faster, but there can be no material difference in their sailing. I understand that Mr. Landais is appointed a captain in the American navy—perhaps he is to command one of these ships—I must allow that a two-decker will have much genteeler accommodations for officers than a ship that carries only one tier of guns; and experience has taught us, that our officers, both by land and sea, are fond of being genteely accommodated; perhaps this consideration may, in some measure, have influenced Mr. Landais' opinion in favor of two-deckers; otherwise, if he is really acquainted with maritime matters and the peculiar circumstances of America, I think he would give the preference to such ships as I sometime ago proposed to Mr. Ellery; which was to turn those ships that were designed for seventy fours, into frigates that might mount thirty-two thirty-two-pounders on the gun deck, and fourteen twelve's on the quarter-deck and fore-castle. They will carry their heavy guns between three and four feet higher than Mr. Landais' fifty-six gun-ship will carry her lower tier, consequently will be able to fight them as long as any two decker can fight her upper tier, and will have an inconceivable advantage in fighting those heavy guns on an upper deck. They would swim more than a foot lighter than the fifty-six gun-ship, and would

have much less top hamper; consequently, would sail much faster, and cost much less, and would not require so many men by one-fourth.

If it is not too late, I could wish the experiment might be made with one of them. I have not heard whether Mr. Morris is returned to congress or not; if he is, and should think worth while to consider my plan, I flatter myself he would not disapprove it, for I know him to be a very good judge of those affairs. But, perhaps, it is too late to make any alteration in the plan, I must therefore leave it to your discretion to take any notice of what I say on the subject or not; but I must take the liberty to predict that those two-deckers will never go to sea; and I believe I may venture to say, that the frigates that are in Boston will never get to sea till a stop is put to privateering. As to our state affairs I must refer you to those of your correspondents who are on the stage of action, as they can much better inform you than is in my power.

Please present my most respectful compliments to those gentlemen who you know I esteem, and accept for yourself the best wishes of your very affectionate friend and

Most obedient, humble servant,

COLONEL BARTLETT, }
In Congress. }



No. VI.

Portsmouth, 12th July, 1778.

My Dear Sir—Your much esteemed favor of the 20th ultimo, is now before me. The evacuation of Philadelphia is an event I had been some weeks expecting to hear of. I hope (with you) that congress may find some place more commodious than where you now are; but I think, were I with you, I should not wish to go to Philadelphia till the hot weather was over, nor then if a better place could be found; which, in my opinion, is not difficult. But that is a matter not for me to judge of, nor is it of much importance where they set, so long as they continue to act with that firmness which is so conspicuous in their conduct towards the British commissioners, a conduct that must do them eternal honor. No transaction of congress ever gave more general satisfaction in this quarter.

We had yesterday some imperfect account of a battle fought on the

28th ultimo, in which it is said the enemy left three hundred on the field, and our army took one hundred prisoners; our loss not ascertained. This victory does not satisfy the *most* sanguine amongst us; others (with whom I place myself,) think this, with *better*, will do. I hope we shall have a particular account of all the movements, &c.

As I am happy in agreeing with you in opinion, in general, I should be exceedingly glad if there was a coincidence in our sentiments respecting privateering. I agree with you that the privateers have much distressed the trade of our enemies; but, had there been no privateers, is it not probable there would have been a much larger number of public ships than has been fitted out, which might have distressed the enemy nearly as much, and furnished these states with necessities on much better terms than they have been supplied by privateers? However, I will not contend with you about the advantages or disadvantages that have been the consequences of that business; all I wish to convince you of is, that it is *now* attended with the most pernicious consequences; which there would be no need of my undertaking, if you were only to pass three months in this or any other town where the spirit for privateering rages with such violence as it does here. No kind of business can so effectually introduce luxury, extravagance, and every kind of dissipation that tend to the destruction of the *morals* of a people. Those who are actually engaged in it, soon lose every idea of right and wrong; and for want of an opportunity of gratifying their insatiable avarice with the property of the enemies of their country, will, without the least compunction, seize that of her friends. Thus far I am sure you would agree with me had you the opportunity, before mentioned, of making your observations. But perhaps you may say, these are evils attendant on this business to society in general. I will allow that to be the case, but then it must be allowed they will operate with more violence in this country, in its present unsettled state, than in a country where all the powers of government can be vigorously exercised; but besides these, there are many other mischiefs that attend this business peculiar to these states in our present circumstances. Some of the towns in this state have been obliged to give four hundred dollars bounty, per man, for men to serve three or four months at Rhode Island, exclusive of that allowed by the state. This is wholly owing to privateering. The farmers cannot hire a laborer for less than thirty or forty dollars per month, and, in the neighborhood of this town, three and four dollars per day, and very difficult to be had at that; this naturally raises the price of provisions—Indian corn is not to be purchased under six dollars per bushel. There is at this time *five* privateers fitting out here,

which, I suppose, will take four hundred men; these must principally be countrymen, for the seamen are chiefly gone and most of them are in Halifax jail; besides all this, you may depend, no public ship will ever be manned while there is a privateer fitting out. The reason is plain—those people who have the most influence with seamen think it their interest to discourage the public service, because by that they advance their own interest, viz. privateering. In order to do this effectually, every officer in the public service, (I mean the navy,) is treated with general contempt: a man of any feeling cannot bear this; he therefore, to avoid these indignities, quits the service, and is immediately courted and caressed to go a privateering. By this means, all the officers that are worth employing will quit the service, and you'll have the navy, (if you think it worth while to keep up that show) officered by *tinkers, shoemakers and horsejockeys*; no gentleman worth employing will accept a commission. This, you may depend upon, will soon be the case, unless privateering is discouraged and the business of the marine, in this department, more attended to and conducted with more regularity. In short, it would be much better to set fire to the ships now in port than to pretend to fit them for sea, for as matters now are, (if I am rightly informed, and my authority is very good,) the public are at an amazing expense to procure men for privates; for if they, the public ships, get two men one day they are sure to lose four the next, who take care to carry off with them the advanced pay, &c.

I think I have given you a long chapter on privateering, much longer than I intended when I began. I have said the more on the subject, as it is the last time I shall trouble you with my sentiments of that business; and as I have got to the end of my sheet, I will conclude the long scrawl with my best wishes for your health and happiness, and with the fullest assurances that I am

Yours, very affectionately,

COLONEL BARTLETT, }
In Congress. }



No. VII.

Portsmouth, 2d August, 1778.

My Dear Sir:—Your favor of the 13th ultimo, came to hand yesterday. I have no expectation that an alteration will take place

agreeable to my proposal, especially as my plan is objected to by a *Frenchman*. I have had a conversation with Mr. Landais, since he left congress, on that subject; he seems very fond of his own child, which is natural enough to suppose, but he can offer nothing of sufficient weight to alter my sentiments: on the contrary, since talking with him, I am more confirmed in my own opinion. These Frenchmen, who are not perfectly acquainted with our language, have a very convenient way of getting over difficulties—when they cannot answer your objections, they do not *understand* you. However, experience will bring us right in time, I hope. I am sure it will convince us that the plan for fifty-six-gun ships will never answer our purpose.

I am obliged for your particular account of the French fleet, which I find differs from the newspaper accounts. I heartily wish this fleet may answer our most sanguine expectations, but I am very apprehensive that (unless they are very quick in their motions) a fleet from Britain will be along side of them before they are ready to receive them. We are in daily expectation of hearing of some grand operations. *Sullivan*, it seems, is to attack Newport; but he cannot be ready for such an attack, by his making a requisition, very lately, of assistance from this state. No orders are yet issued from the executive authority here; it will be very difficult for this state to spare any men at this busy season—we are already thoroughly drained of men. I suppose we have as large a proportion as any state in the Union in the public service, that are sent by the state,—nearly as many more have enlisted in the Massachusetts' regiments, and vast numbers are gone a privateering, so that we have hardly any males left but old men and boys. If we send any more soldiers, I believe they must be *females*—we may spare a considerable number of that sort. * * * * I don't learn that general Sullivan has more than five or six thousand men, and the enemy have seven thousand at Newport.

There has been no arrivals this way for some time past, all the intelligence from Europe must come from your way; I therefore wish you would furnish as much as possible. Mr. D., it seems, is or has been with you; I suppose whether his conduct is to be approved or disapproved is a matter of debate. Philadelphia, I imagine, has a different face from what it wore when you left it last—no doubt you find some new faces and miss many old ones—the Quakers, it is to be supposed, are as friendly as ever: among the rest, pray what has become of our old land-lady?

I hope the Chesapeake and Delaware bays will soon be open for our northern vessels, and the states bordering on them able to furnish

us with a little bread, which I assure you we are in great want of. One-third of the families in this town are one-half of their time without bread, though, if the information I have is true, very considerable quantities are in the country; but being in the hands of farmers who don't want money, therefore will not part with their corn. What little is brought to town is sold for seven and eight dollars per bushel; in short, the produce of the country is by far dearer than any foreign articles.

I understand, by colonel Langdon, that Mr. Wentworth has been ill—hope he is perfectly recovered and joined you long 'ere this. I hope the extra hot weather will not injure your health—it has had a very severe effect upon my intestines; but by the help of medicine I am in a fair way to be in a condition to go to Rhode Island, if I can be serviceable there. I am very sincerely yours,

HON. JOSIAH BARTLETT, 
In Congress.

Gill, Franklin county, Mass., Dec. 7, 1842.

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

My Dear Sir—After a long silence on my part, occasioned by solemn events in the providence of God, I enclose you another poem for the American Pioneer. It may be sung to the air of Beattie's Hermit.

THE BANKS OF MAUMEE.

"Since the treaty, some of the Indians have said they will never leave this country; if they can find no place to stay, they will spend the rest of their days in walking up and down the Maumee, mourning over the wretched state of their people."—*Van Tassel's Journal in the Missionary Herald*, Dec. 1831.

I stood, in a dream, on the banks of Maumee!
 'Twas autumn, and nature seem'd wrapp'd in decay;
 The wind, moaning, crept thro' the shivering tree—
 The leaf from the bough drifted slowly away;
 The gray-eagle screamed on the marge of the stream,
 The solitudes answered the bird of the free;
 How lonely and sad was the scene of my dream,
 And mournful the hour, on the banks of Maumee!

A form passed before me—a vision of one
Who mourned for his nation, his country and kin;
He walked on the shores, now deserted and lone,
Where the homes of his tribe, in their glory, had been:
And thought after thought o'er his sad spirit stole,
As wave follows wave o'er the turbulent sea;
And this lamentation he breathed from his soul,
O'er the ruins of home, on the banks of Maumee:—

“ As the hunter, at morn, in the snows of the wild,
Recalls to his mind the sweet visions of night;
When sleep, softly falling, his sorrows beguiled,
And opened his eyes in the land of delight—
So, backward I muse on the dream of my youth;
Ye peace-giving hours! O, where did ye flee?
When the Christian neglected his pages of truth,
And the Great Spirit frowned, on the banks of Maumee.

“ Oppression has lifted his iron-like rod
And smitten my people, again and again;
The white man has said there is justice with God—
Will He hear the poor Indian before him complain?
Sees he not how His children are worn and oppress'd—
How driven in exile!—O, can he not see?
And I, in the garments of heaviness dress'd,
The last of my tribe, on the banks of Maumee?

“ Ye trees, on whose branches my cradle was hung,
Must I yield you a prey to the axe and the fire?
Ye shores, where the chant of the pow-wow was sung,
Have ye witnessed the light of the council expire?
Pale ghosts of my fathers, who battled of yore,
Is the Great Spirit *just* in the land where ye be?
While living, dejected I'll wander this shore,
And join you at last from the banks of Maumee.”

KING PHILIP'S CAMP.—Old “ King Philip,” once took up his winter quarters on the summit of a hill, near the residence of the late honorable S. C. Allen, in that part of Northfield lying west of the Connecticut river, contiguous to Gill—at least, so says tradition; and the old pine tree, about the trunk of which he constructed his lodge, is yet standing, bearing the marks of his camp-fire and of his hatchet. The site is a *sightly* one, overlooking the flat lands bordering the river, for a considerable distance; and the approach of a foe was thus easily detected. Had not the gray-headed fathers of our people “ fallen asleep ” before the “ rise and progress ” of the *Pioneer* press, that press might have given to history interesting and stirring scenes in the course of Philip's winter encampment upon the hill.

For that there was some bloody work then and there is a fact disclosed by the exhuming of human skeletons around the base of the mount; and it is but a short time since that a human skull was turned up by a workman, within gun-shot of the hill, with a bullet hole in it, through which the soul of the owner undoubtedly escaped to the spirit-land, in days "lang syne."

A CURIOUS OLD COIN.—A curious old copper coin has been found on the banks of the river, in our neighborhood. It is a valuable relic for an antiquarian; and were it gifted with a tongue, might unfold an "unco strange" tale. I have seen the coin once, some time since, and the characters inscribed thereon were altogether beyond my "bent." I shall endeavor to get possession of the same, and send you a fac-simile of it as soon as practicable.

With many acknowledgments of your past kindness and notice of my poetry, [my name, by the way, is Josiah, not Joseph,] I remain, sir,

Yours, respectfully,

Jos. D. Canning.

JOURNAL OF ST. CLAIR'S ARMY.

We are glad to receive the documents and the following letter from our reverend correspondent, and thank him much for his copy. We shall publish the journal in our next with, perhaps, some remarks. This will open the way for explanations on points which neither he nor I seem to be capable of making. Our friend may be assured that his is not the worst, among fifty-two different persons' manuscripts, from which we edited the first volume. He seems to be more out of patience with his own "scrawl" than we ever were, although we almost invoked the spirit of our fathers to help us decypher the Welsh name. We ardently wish always to have plenty of such contributions.

Mount Carmel, Ill., Dec. 9th, 1842.

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

Dear Sir—Agreeably to my promise you have the journal of the proceedings of general Arthur St. Clair's army. It is not just the thing I expected, but a kind of defence or trial before a court martial, detailing the *marches*, &c. Well, it is such as suited the occasion. I had, however, to decypher it for you. I found it among lieutenant or captain Bradshaw's papers.

I must correct past errors—my misfortune is to write too rapidly; a habit contracted in a clerk's office at an early day, consequently, sometimes not plain, leading printers into blunders. Indeed, sometimes it has been my misfortune to do two things at *once*, write and talk too, as I am now doing—but enough of this.

In my letter of May 30th, 1842, for Owen ap "Zuinch," read "Guinedth;" for chaplin of "Union," read chaplin of "Mercer;" for 1186, read "1180." In my letter of Oct. 11th, 1842, for "speeches of congress," read "specimens of the presidents' autographs of the old congress." From an affliction by a *paralysis*, I find my letters contracted, and am astonished to find that you can decypher my scrawl.

With your prospects of an approaching new-year, I trust you may realize equal and more success than the present, in your zealous efforts to preserve the most interesting events that have ever occurred among men since the age of wonders.

Yours, very respectfully,



GREAT AMERICAN DESERT.

Rockspring, Illinois, December 9th, 1842.

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

Dear Sir—I regret that absence from home, for a year past, and pressure of business since my return, have prevented me from aiding in your invaluable periodical, *THE AMERICAN PIONEER*.

I will again say, after having read with no ordinary interest, all the numbers of the first volume, that it is just such a periodical as I have long desired to see, and as is *indispensable* to gather, collate and correct the scattered fragments of our Western History, and of its intrepid pioneers.

I purpose, from time to time, to give you "sketches," without attempting connection or method. They have been gathered from various sources, collated and examined with care, compared with other statements, and it is believed they may be relied on as facts.

ABSOLOM HICKLIN.

The following sketch I gathered from James Caldwell, Esq., who formerly lived in Madison country, Mo., and at whose house I saw Hicklin, nearly twenty years since.

VOL. II.—L

Absalom Hicklin was taken prisoner by the Indians, in Kentucky, about 1788, he being then a boy twelve or fifteen years of age. He lived many years with the Indians, on the great prairies west of the Mississippi, and ranged over the vast regions betwixt that river and the Rocky mountains, and from the Red river of the northern ocean to the Texan and Mexican regions south. He visited most of the Spanish provinces of Upper Mexico, and was well acquainted with many of the Indian tribes, their languages and customs. While at the hot springs on the Washita, he took a severe cold, which, for a long time, afflicted his head, and finally rendered him entirely deaf. He spoke his native tongue fluently—was communicative in conversation, and could readily understand by signs. Before he was taken prisoner he had learned to read, the ability of which he had never entirely lost. This facilitated conversation with him, for he could readily catch our meaning when written on a slate. When I saw him he was about fifty years of age, and appeared to possess more than ordinary shrewdness and talent. He had then lived in the white settlements for several years, but still delighted in hunting, at which he was peculiarly expert. While amongst the Indians, he had nearly forgotten how to read, but after his deafness occurred he turned his attention to reading, and especially writing, as a mode of communication with his friends. He was quite inquisitive, and could read the answers to his questions, on the slate, with great facility.

He had been much amongst the Caddoe Indians, and had traveled repeatedly across the Great Desert that lies between Texas and the Upper Arkansas river.

He stated that amongst the Caddoes, and some other tribes of Indians, one man of the hunting party is the *fire-man*, who is also the "medicine-man," priest or conjurer. It is his business to provide fire for the party. He carries the "fire tools," the steel, flint and spunk, and strikes up the fires at each encampment. He neither hunts, nor performs any other labor, yet is entitled to the choice pieces from the game.

He knew a Caddoe priest, or fire-man, who tried to stop the rain, that they might drive the buffalo. He had a number of opossum's tails, with the ends curled; these he hung to the branches of trees and shrubs, singing or chanting to them, and performing divers magical ceremonies. Mr. Hicklin noticed the Indian would always watch the clouds till signs of fair weather appeared, before he commenced his charms. Though a cunning imposition, as the conjurations of these medicine-men always are, yet the Indians believed it all a reality.

To procure rain in a time of drought, these conjurers have threads or strings of beads and other trinkets, which they hold with one hand over the water till the lower end is wet.

Mr. K. described the *Great Desert*, in the interior of America, over which he had frequently traveled. This tract of country lies in the northern part of Texas, and towards the heads of the Red river, and the southwestern branches of the Arkansas, and stretches westward into the regions of Mexico. He once traveled three days and nights over these vast prairies without water, till his tongue became dry and cracked; he spit only blood, and the sensation, as he described it, was like an effort to swallow without effecting it. The sufferings of the company were intolerable. Finally, they came to a hole, containing a little water, thickened with the excrement of the buffalo, which necessity compelled them to drink. The next day they had water and rain in abundance.

In the dry season all the water in this desert evaporates, and no rain falls from March to Christmas. The earth opens in fissures three feet wide, and from five to six feet deep. Corn, if planted, grows a foot high, tassels out and dies. The prairie grass withers and will burn furiously by the 20th of July.

There are no springs in this desert. During a rainy season, water collects in holes, and soon becomes hot and filthy. In some parts the sand is thrown into heaps by the wind, threatening the destruction of the poor traveler. In the rainy season the buffalo and mustangs roam over this tract; but in time of drought, game of every description forsakes this parched desert. The Caddoes and Camanches frequently cross it in their predatory and hunting excursions.

Possibly some of the old settlers of Kentucky may recollect the family of Mr. Hicklin, and his captivity. It is possible he may have spelt his name wrong. It may have been Ficklin, or Hinckley, or some other name, but he spoke it as I have written it.

Respectfully, yours, &c.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. M. Peck.", with a horizontal line underneath the "J. M." and another line underneath the "Peck".

We congratulate the readers of the American Pioneer upon the re-appearance of our valued friend, the Rev. Mr. Peck. We had really given him over. He, however, satisfactorily explains his silence; and, we trust, will continue to regale our readers with many a rare treat from his store of Pioneer lore. He has promised more, and we confidently expect it.

POST OFFICE FACILITIES.

Auditor's Office, Post Office Dep't, Dec. 1842.

Dear Sir—The annals sent to you, in my letter of the 18th March last, closed with the removal of Benjamin Franklin by the freak of ministers on the 29th of January, 1774. My next letter commenced with the first report made to congress on the 25th of July, 1775. The intervening period of about eighteen months was omitted, but its history in regard to the post office establishment, as in other matters, is interesting, and will now be examined. In supplying this chasm, I shall avail myself liberally of the labors of Peter Force, the intelligent and indefatigable editor of the American Archives, who has literally “encompassed sea and land” to collect historical documents, to fulfill engagements to congress, by whose authority the work is being published; and to make it as interesting as it is eminently useful, as a history of the great events in this country from the first settlement to the period at which the American State Papers, published by Gales and Seaton, commences in 1787. Matthew St. Clair Clark was first associated with Mr. Force as publisher, and having transferred his interest to John C. Rives, it is now published by Force and Rives.

Dr. Gregory, in his Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, says—“In 1711, the former establishments of separate post offices for England and Scotland were abolished; and by the statute 9, Anne, chap. 10, one general post office and one postmaster general were established for the whole United Kingdom; and this post master was empowered to erect chief letter offices at Edinburgh, at Dublin, at New York, and other places in America and the West Indies.”

We have seen by the annals published in the American Pioneer, volume i., page 108, that colonel John Hamilton, of New Jersey, obtained letters patent for a scheme he devised to regulate the post office establishment for British America, which he sold to the British government in 1710.

From the fact, that the British government, in 1710, purchased the letter patent of colonel Hamilton, for the plan devised by him to regulate the post office establishment; and from the fact of immediate action of the British government, by which all former acts were abolished and a post office establishment created which embraced the united kingdom of England and Scotland, and of British America, it is evident to my mind that the British government and subjects are indebted to a native American for the scheme of their post office establishment, which is their pride and boast.

"The revenues derived from postages were set apart for the service of the war, and other of her majesty's occasions." Although the office had paid nothing into the treasury when Dr. Franklin was appointed postmaster general in 1753, yet such were the improvements he introduced into its organization, and such impulses were given to its action and accountability, that when he was dismissed on the 29th of January, 1774, it yielded a clear revenue to the crown of £3,000 sterling per annum.

On the 5th of February, 1774, an American, in London, with an independence and fearlessness that characterized the patriots of that day, addressed the following letter to lord North:

"My Lord—As an American, give me leave to assure your lordship that I think the dismissing Dr. Franklin, as postmaster general in North America, at this particular crisis, one of the most fortunate events that could have happened to that country. It was that gentleman that brought the post office in America to be of some consequence, and to yield something of a revenue to the mother country. The people there never liked the institution, and only acquiesed in it out of their unbounded affection for the person that held the office, who had taken infinite pains to render it convenient to the several colonies. But what will follow now, my lord? I will tell you.—The post from Philadelphia to Boston is that alone which produces any profit worth mentioning; the others, taken together, do not more than maintain themselves; and between Philadelphia and Boston, you may depend on it, the Americans will immediately set up a carrier of their own, which you, with all your brethren in power, together with lord Hillsborough's abilities, cannot prevent; and thereby they will entirely starve your post between those capital cities. And this will happily end your boasted post office, so often given as a precedent for taxing the Americans."

This prophecy, in London, within seven days after the removal of Dr. Franklin, and before it was known in America that he was removed, and, of course, without any concert with any person in this country on the subject, in a very short time became history.

"Feeling power and forgetting right," the colonists were oppressed in various ways by the parent government; and the post office establishment was used to extort money from the people of this country, and to prevent the dissemination of intelligence through the medium of the few newspapers then published here. William Goddard, the publisher of a newspaper in Philadelphia, was the first person who proposed to establish an American or constitutional post office, in contradistinction to an unconstitutional or British ministerial post office.

His paper had circulated in the greater part of Pennsylvania, N. Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, till at length the exactions of the king's post rider became so enormous that they amounted to an entire prohibition to the continuance of his business in the city of Philadelphia. The sum of fifty-two pounds sterling, Pennsylvania currency, per annum, was demanded at the post office for the carriage of about three hundred and fifty newspapers, one hundred and thirty miles, payable in weekly payments, as the papers were delivered to the post

We should most certainly rebel against this oppressive and enormous tax at this day; and it is a matter of surprise that the reading community did not rise *en masse* and demand redress, instead of remaining inactive until they were aroused by the representations and public addresses of Mr. Goddard. He was "the proprietor and employer of a very free press," and in that employment had obtained much note. The probability is, his paper gave great offence to the ministerialists; and if its suppression was not directed by the crown, the post riders knew what would please lord North. Mr. Goddard, in March, 1774, visited Boston and most of the large towns in New England, and made known his plan to the people publicly and privately. Letters were written in his behalf from New York to gentlemen in Boston, and his plan favorably recommended. The Bostonians were liberal and spirited then, as they have ever been since, when the demands of the public required a free will offering of personal service or money. Large assemblies congregated to sustain Mr. Goddard in prosecuting his plan, and one gentleman subscribed fifty pounds towards carrying it into effect. It was a bold measure, and against the statute 9, of queen Anne, chapter 10, section 17; which decreed, "that no person or persons, body politic, or corporate whatsoever, in Great Britain, Ireland, the West Indies, or America, other than the postmaster general appointed by his majesty, shall presume to take up, order, despatch, convey, carry, re-carry, or deliver, any letter or letters, or set up, or employ any foot-post, horse-post, or packet boat, on pain of forfeiting five pounds British money for every several offence, and also the sum of one hundred pounds of like British money for every week during the continuance of the offence."

After referring to the origin of the American post office, and to the statute of the 9th of Anne, by which the crown was possessed of the control of the office, Mr. Goddard set forth the ground of grievance in a preamble to a plan, from which I extract the following:—

"By this means a set of officers, ministerial indeed in their creation, direction, and dependence, are maintained in the colonies, into whose hands all the social, commercial, and political intelligence of the conti-

ment is necessarily committed ; which at this time every one must consider as dangerous in the extreme. It is not only our letters that are liable to be stopped and opened, by a ministerial mandate, and their contents construed into treasonable conspiracies, but our newspapers, those necessary and important alarms in time of public danger, may be rendered of little consequence for want of circulation. Whenever it shall be thought proper to restrain the liberty of the press or injure an individual, how easily may it be effected ! A postmaster general may dismiss a rider and substitute his hostler in his place, who may tax the newspapers to a prohibition ; and when the master is remonstrated to, upon the head, he may deny he has any concern in the matter, and tell the printer he must make his terms with the post. As, therefore, the maintenance of this dangerous and unconstitutional precedent of taxation without our consent ; as the parting of very considerable sums of our money to support officers, of whom it seems to be expected that they should be inimical to our rights ; as the great danger of the increase of such interest and its connections, added to the consideration above mentioned, must be alarming to a people thoroughly convinced of the fatal tendency of this parliamentary establishment, it is, therefore, proposed :

“ 1st. That subscriptions be opened for the establishment and maintenance of a post office, and for the necessary defence of post offices and riders employed in the same.

“ 2d. That the subscribers in each colony shall annually appoint a committee from among themselves, consisting of seven persons, whose business it shall be to appoint postmasters in all places within their respective provinces, where such offices have hitherto been kept or may hereafter be judged necessary ; and to regulate the postages of letters and packets, with the terms on which newspapers are to be carried ; which regulations shall be printed and set up in each respective office.

“ 3d. That the postmaster shall contract with, and take bonds with sufficient securities, of suitable persons, to perform the same duty as hath heretofore been performed by post riders, subject to the regulation and control of the committee.

“ 4th. That the several mails shall be under lock and key, and liable to the inspection of no person but the respective postmasters to whom directed, who shall be under oath for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in him.

“ 5th. That a postmaster general shall be annually chosen by the written votes of all the provincial committees, enclosed and sent to the chairman of the New York committee ; who, on receiving all the

votes, and giving one month's public notice in all the New York papers of the time and place appointed for that purpose, shall open them in committee in the presence of all such subscribers as shall choose to attend, and declare the choice; which choice shall be immediately communicated to all the other provincial committees by a certificate under the hand of the said chairman.

"6th. That the postmaster general shall be empowered to demand and receive the accounts from the several postmasters throughout the colonies connected with this post office, and shall adjust and liquidate the same; and, by his order, transfer in just proportion the surplusages of one office to make good deficiencies of another, if any such should appear; and in case of a deficiency upon the whole, he shall have the power to draw for the same on the several committees, in proportion to the amount of the subscription in their department; and at the year's end transmit to the said committees a fair and just account of the whole post office under his inspection.

"7th. That the several postmasters shall charge — per cent. on all the monies received into their respective offices for their own services, and also — per cent. for the use of the postmaster general, which they shall remit to him quarterly with their accounts.

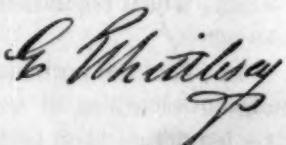
"8th. That whatever balances may remain in the hands of the several postmasters, after all charges are paid, shall, by the direction of the subscribers in the province or provinces, where such postmasters reside, be appropriated to the enlargement of the present institution within their respective provinces."

This plan was well arranged and suited to the condition of the people at that day, and several of its leading principles have been in practice to the present time.

My next communication will resume the subject of the "Constitutional Post Office."

Most sincerely and respectfully, yours,

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.



A Northern Custom.—When Mr. Hearne was on the Coppermine river, in 1771, some of the Copper Indians in his company killed a number of Esquimaux, by which act they considered themselves unclean; and all concerned in the murder were not allowed to cook any provisions, either for themselves or others. They were, however, allowed to eat of others' cooking, but not until they had painted, with a kind of red earth, all the space between their nose and chin, as well as a greater part of their cheeks, almost to their ears. Neither would they use any other dish or pipe than their own.—[Drake.]

A SMACK OF PIONEER CANDOR AND POLITICS.

Chillicothe, May 25th, 1803.

Dear Sir—I was favored with your letter of the 14th inst., enclosing my receipt. In answer to that part of your letter relating to the ensuing election, I can only say that I know you must be convinced that I have uniformly, since the commencement of our acquaintance, given you every evidence of my respect for you personally, and for the principles you advocate. But, sir, situated as I now am, I cannot, consistently with that integrity I wish to pursue, give up Mr. Morrow. This gentleman was brought forward at the earnest solicitation of a large majority of the republican members at the close of last session. It was agreed to support him in the different counties, and so far as I can learn the sentiments of the people in the eastern counties, in this county, and Adams, this will be done. An attempt to change the present plan, would certainly, at this late period, effectually prevent the election of either yourself or Mr. Morrow, and ensure the election of a federalist. I am sure, sir, you do not wish to see this effect produced by a division of republican interest, nor in any other way. I am informed, from the most authentic source, that the federalists are taking the most active measures in support of a man of their own politics. Under these circumstances, if you could by any means give your aid in the support of a republican, it would be a happy circumstance. I beg you will believe me, very sincerely,

Your friend,



WILLIAM GOFORTH, Esq.

Chillicothe, November 17th, 1804.

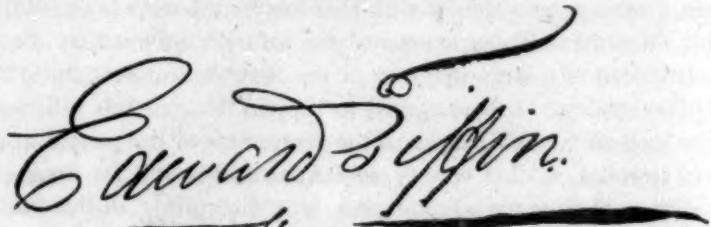
Sir—In obedience to the 5th section of the act of the general assembly, passed at the last session, entitled "An act to provide for the election of electors of the president and vice president," I herewith transmit, by a special messenger, a certificate of your being legally and duly elected for the state of Ohio, one of the electors of president and vice president of the United States. You will please to attend at the court-house, in the town of Chillicothe, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of Wednesday the 5th day of December next, to receive such communication as shall be made to the electors then present by the executive authority of this state, agreeably with the act of con-

gress entitled, "An act supplementary to the act entitled, an act relative to the election of a president and vice president of the United States, and declaring the officer who shall act as president in case of vacancies to the offices both of president and vice president," passed at their last session; as also to proceed to discharge the duties required of you by law.

Will you be so good as to acknowledge the receipt of this communication by return of the express?

With due respect, I have the honor to be, with the highest personal esteem, sir,

Your obedient servant,



WILLIAM GOFORTH, SEN., Esq., *Columbia.*

P. S. A gentleman of this place has applied to me to discharge the duties of a special messenger to the city of Washington, with a return of the electoral votes, but I informed him that the electors have to choose one for themselves; if, therefore, you have engaged no one, he may be depended on, and will be ready, should you think proper to employ him, to execute your commands.

ANECDOTE OF THE LATE BENJAMIN TAPPAN.

MR. TAPPAN came to Northampton in 1768. Being a total stranger, he took letters of introduction from gentlemen in Boston to major Hawley, a celebrated patriot of olden time, as well as to other men of note. Having been raised in the city, he was not prepared to see men of celebrity housed, habited, and occupied as were the fathers of the country. He first put up with Seth Pomroy, of whose military exploits he had heard, and which led him to expect show and parade; but instead of this he found him accoutred in a leather apron and working at his anvil. This surprised him; but he thought in major Hawley to find something more near his ideas of the external appearance of a great man. He was directed to a house in Redding lane, (now Hawley street,) of a very rough appearance, being of hewed logs. He could not believe this was the house of the Hawley whom the Bostonians esteemed so great a man. The front door had a

wooden latch with a leather string hanging through. At this he rapped with his knuckles, for knockers and bell-pullers were unknown. He received the customary "walk in." On entering, he found a man plainly dressed, in a check shirt, who civilly asked the Boston boy to take a seat. "Can this be major Hawley?" exclaimed he to himself; but to make the matter sure, he asked if major Hawley lived there? The man said his name was Hawley, and soon convinced his visitor, by conversation, that he was no ordinary man. The next sabbath found men and boys in checked shirts. Such was Northampton seventy-five years ago; it is now one of the most fashionable villages of the country.

Your's respectfully,

Daniel Stobbes

BOYD'S CONTRIBUTIONS.

Cincinnati, December 21, 1842.

My Dear Sir—I fully intended furnishing, as an accompaniment to the letters of Mr. Whipple, an original sketch of his life and services, but have been prevented from doing so for the want of leisure to arrange the matter I had collected for the purpose.

The following extract of a letter recently received from New Hampshire may not be out of place:—"With the latter gentleman (Whipple) and my honored father, there subsisted such a strong and enduring intimacy and affection, that his letters of correspondence in my files are much more numerous than those of any other of his colleagues or contemporaries; and although at times, during the struggle for independence, the national affairs wore a gloomy aspect, yet Whipple's letters were always inspiring, and occasionally seasoned with Attic wit at the gloomy presages of his desponding compeers."

In the absence of a better, the accompanying notice from Blake's Biographical Dictionary, may serve your purpose

Very truly, yours,

Joseph B. Boyd

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

"WILLIAM WHIPPLE, signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born at Kittery, Maine, in 1730. After receiving as good an education as the public school of his native town could afford, he en-

tered on board of a merchant vessel, and during several years was engaged making voyages for commercial purposes, principally to the West Indies. He acquired in this way a considerable fortune, and, abandoning the sea in 1759, commenced business with a brother at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where he continued in trade until within a few years of the Revolution. In January, 1775, he was a representative of Portsmouth in the provincial congress, assembled at Exeter for the purpose of electing delegates to the continental congress in Philadelphia; and of a second provincial congress, which met at the same place on the ensuing May, by which he was appointed one of the provincial committee of safety. In 1776, he was placed in the general congress, and continued a member until September, 1777. In 1777, the assembly of New Hampshire placed him at the head of one of the brigades organized in consequence of the progress of Burgoyne. He joined Gate's army, and in the battle of Saratoga commanded the New Hampshire troops. He was employed to assist in arranging the terms of capitulation, and in conducting the surrendered army to their encampment on Winter-hill, in the vicinity of Boston. In 1778, he shared in the successful expedition to Rhode Island under general Sullivan. In 1780, he was chosen a representative to the general assembly of New Hampshire, and was several times re-elected. In 1782, he was appointed, by Mr. Morris, the superintendent of finance, receiver of public monies for New Hampshire, an office which infirm health obliged him to relinquish in 1784. In the former year, he was also appointed judge of the superior court of judicature. He died in November, 1785."—[Blake, page 984.]

TRAVELS OF MONCACHTAPE.

MONCACHTAPE, was a Yazoo, whose name signified, in the language of that nation, *killer of pain and fatigue*. How well he deserved this name, the sequel will unfold. He was well known to the historian Du Pratz, about 1760, and it was owing to his singular good intelligence, that that traveler was able to add much valuable information to his work. "This man, (says Du Pratz,) was remarkable for his solid understanding and elevation of sentiment; and I may justly compare him to those first Greeks, who traveled chiefly in the east to examine the manners and customs of different nations, and to communicate to their fellow-citizens, on their return, the knowledge which they had acquired." He was known to the French by the name of the *Interpreter*, as he could communicate with several other nations, having learned their languages. Monsieur Du Pratz used great endeavors among the nations of the Mississippi, to learn their origin, or from whence they came; and observes, concerning it, "All that I could learn from them was, that they came from between the north and the sun-setting; and this account they uniformly adhere to, whenever they give any account of their origin." This was unsatisfactory to him, and in his exertions to find some one that could inform him better, he met with *Moncachtape*. The following is the result of his communications in his own words:—

"I had lost my wife, and all the children whom I had by her, when I undertook my journey towards the sun-rising. I set out from my village, contrary to the inclination of all my relations, and went first to the Chickasaws, our friends and neighbors. I continued among them several days, to inform myself whether they knew whence we all came, or, at least, whence they themselves came; they, who were our elders—since from them came the language of the country. As they could not inform me, I proceeded on my journey. I reached the country of the Chaouanous, and afterwards went up the Wabash, or Ohio, near its source, which is in the country of the Iroquois, or Five Nations. I left them, however, towards the north; and, during the winter, which, in that country, is very severe and very long, I lived in a village of the Albenauquis, where I contracted an acquaintance with a man somewhat older than myself, who promised to conduct me, the following spring, to the great water. Accordingly, when the snows were melted, and the weather was settled, we proceeded eastward, and, after several days' journey, I at length saw the great water, which filled me with such joy and admiration that I could not speak. Night drawing on, we took up our lodgings on a high bank above the water, which was sorely vexed by the wind, and made so great a noise that I could not sleep. Next day, the ebbing and flowing of the water filled me with great apprehension; but my companion quieted my fears, by assuring me that the water observed certain bounds, both in advancing and retiring. Having satisfied our curiosity, in viewing the great water, we returned to the village of the Albenauquis, where I continued the following winter; and after the snows were melted, my companion and I went and viewed the great fall of the river St. Lawrence, at Niagara, which was distant from the village several days' journey. The view of this great fall, at first, made my hair stand on end, and my heart almost leap out of its place; but afterwards, before I left it, I had the courage to walk under it. Next day, we took the shortest road to the Ohio, and my companion and I, cutting down a tree on the banks of the river, we formed it into a pettiaugre, which served to conduct me down the Ohio and the Mississippi, after which, with much difficulty, I went up our small river, and at length arrived safe among my relations, who were rejoiced to see me in good health. This journey, instead of satisfying, only served to excite my curiosity. Our old men, for several years, had told me that the ancient speech informed them that the red men of the north came, originally, much higher and much farther than the source of the river Missouri; and, as I had longed to see, with my own eyes, the land from whence our first fathers came, I took my precautions for my journey westwards. Having provided a small quantity of corn, I proceeded up along the eastern bank of the river Mississippi, till I came to the Ohio. I went up along the bank of this last river, about the fourth part of a day's journey, that I might be able to cross it without being carried into the Mississippi. There I formed a cajeux, or raft of canes, by the assistance of which I passed over the river; and next day meeting with a herd of buffalos in the meadows, I killed a fat one, and took from it the fillets, the bunch, and the tongue. Soon after, I arrived among the Tamaroas,

a village of the nation of the Illinois, where I rested several days, and then proceeded northwards to the mouth of the Missouri, which, after it enters the great river, runs for a considerable time without intermixing its muddy waters with the clear stream of the other. Having crossed the Mississippi, I went up the Missouri, along its northern bank, and, after several days' journey, I arrived at the nation of the Missouris, where I staid a long time to learn the language that is spoken beyond them. In going along the Missouri, I passed through meadows a whole day's journey in length, which were quite covered with buffalos.

“ When the cold was past, and the snows were melted, I continued my journey up along the Missouri, till I came to the Nation of the West, or the Canzas. Afterwards, in consequence of directions from them, I proceeded in the same course near thirty days, and at length I met with some of the nation of the Otters, who were hunting in that neighborhood, and were surprised to see me alone. I continued with the hunters two or three days, and then accompanied one of them and his wife, who was near her time of lying in, to their village, which lies far off betwixt the north and west. We continued our journey along the Missouri, for nine days, and then we marched directly northwards for five days more, when we came to the fine river, which runs westward, in a direction contrary to that of the Missouri. We proceeded down this river a whole day, and then arrived at the village of the Otters, who received me with as much kindness as if I had been of their own nation. A few days after, I joined a party of the Otters, who were going to carry a calumut of peace to a nation beyond them, and we embarked in a pettiaugre, and went down the river for eighteen days, landing now and then to supply ourselves with provisions. When I arrived at the nation who were at peace with the Otters, I staid with them till the cold was passed, that I might learn their language, which was common to most of the nations that lived beyond them.

“ The cold was hardly gone, when I again embarked on the fine river, and in my course I met with several nations, with whom I generally staid but one night, till I arrived at the nation that is but one day's journey from the great water on the west. This nation live in the woods about the distance of a league from the river, from their apprehension of bearded men, who come upon their coasts in floating villages, and carry off their children to make slaves of them. These men were described to be white, with long black beards that came down to their breast; they were thick and short, had large heads, which were covered with cloth; they were always dressed, even in the greatest heats; their clothes fell down to the middle of their legs, which, with their feet, were covered with red or yellow stuff. Their arms made a great fire and a great noise; and when they saw themselves outnumbered by red men, they retired on board their large pettiaugre, their number sometimes amounting to thirty, but never more.

“ Those strangers came from the sun-setting, in search of a yellow, stinking wood, which dyes a fine yellow color; but the people of this nation, that they might not be tempted to visit them, had destroyed

all those kind of trees. Two other nations in their neighborhood, however, having no other wood, could not destroy the trees, and were still visited by the strangers; and being greatly incommoded by them, had invited their allies to assist them in making an attack upon them, the next time they should return. The following summer I accordingly joined in this expedition, and, after traveling five long days' journey, we came to the place where the bearded men usually landed, where we waited seventeen days for their arrival. The red men, by my advice, placed themselves in ambuscade to surprise the strangers, and accordingly, when they landed to cut the wood, we were so successful as to kill eleven of them, the rest immediately escaping on board two large pettiaugres, and flying westward upon the great water.

"Upon examining those whom we had killed, we found them much smaller than ourselves, and very white; they had a large head, and in the middle of the crown the hair was very long; their head was wrapt in a great many folds of stuff, and their clothes seemed to be made neither of wool nor silk; they were very soft, and of different colors. Two only, of the eleven who were slain, had fire-arms, with powder and ball. I tried their pieces, and found they were much heavier than yours, and did not kill at so great a distance.

"After this expedition, I thought of nothing but proceeding on my journey, and, with that design, I let the red men return home, and joined myself to those who inhabited more westward on the coast, with whom I traveled along the shore of the great water, which bends directly betwixt the north and the sun-setting. When I arrived at the villages of my fellow-travelers, where I found the days very long and the nights very short, I was advised by the old men to give over all thoughts of continuing my journey. They told me that the land extended still a long way in a direction between the north and sun-setting, after which it ran directly west, and at length was cut by the great water from north to south. One of them added, that, when he was young, he knew a very old man who had seen that distant land before it was eat away by the great water, and that when the great water was low, many rocks still appeared in those parts. Finding it, therefore, impracticable to proceed much further, on account of the severity of the climate, and the want of game, I returned by the same route by which I had set out; and, reducing my whole travels westward to days' journeys, I compute that they would have employed me thirty-six moons; but on account of my frequent delays, it was five years before I returned to my relations among the Yazooes."

Thus ends the narrative of the famous traveler *Moncachtape*, which seems to have satisfied *Du Pratz*, that the Indians came from the continent of Asia, by way of *Behring's Straits*. And he soon after left him, and returned to his own country. It would have been gratifying, could we have known more of the history of this very intelligent man.

The above interesting narrative we extract from Drake's Indian Biography, not only on account of the light that is thrown on the origin of the Indians, but to illustrate Indian perseverance.

AMERICAN CHRONOLOGY.

(Continued from page 48.)

1625. Thomas Morton, with a company of English, settles among the Indians at Wassaguseus.

1626. Morton's colony become wretched, and some of them serve the Indians as slaves for their bread.

1627. Yeardley dies, and sir John Hervey is appointed in his place. Massachusetts sold to sir Henry Rosswell and others.

1628. Charter of Massachusetts Bay company granted. Lord Baltimore visits Virginia. The Indians of Naumkeag, now Salem, are disturbed by the settlement of the English among them.

1629. Hervey arrives and assumes the government of Virginia. The government of Massachusetts removed from London to the colony. Colonial government established in New York.

1630. Shawmut, now Boston, settled by 1500 persons, who also settle Charlestown and Dorchester. First permanent settlement in Maine.

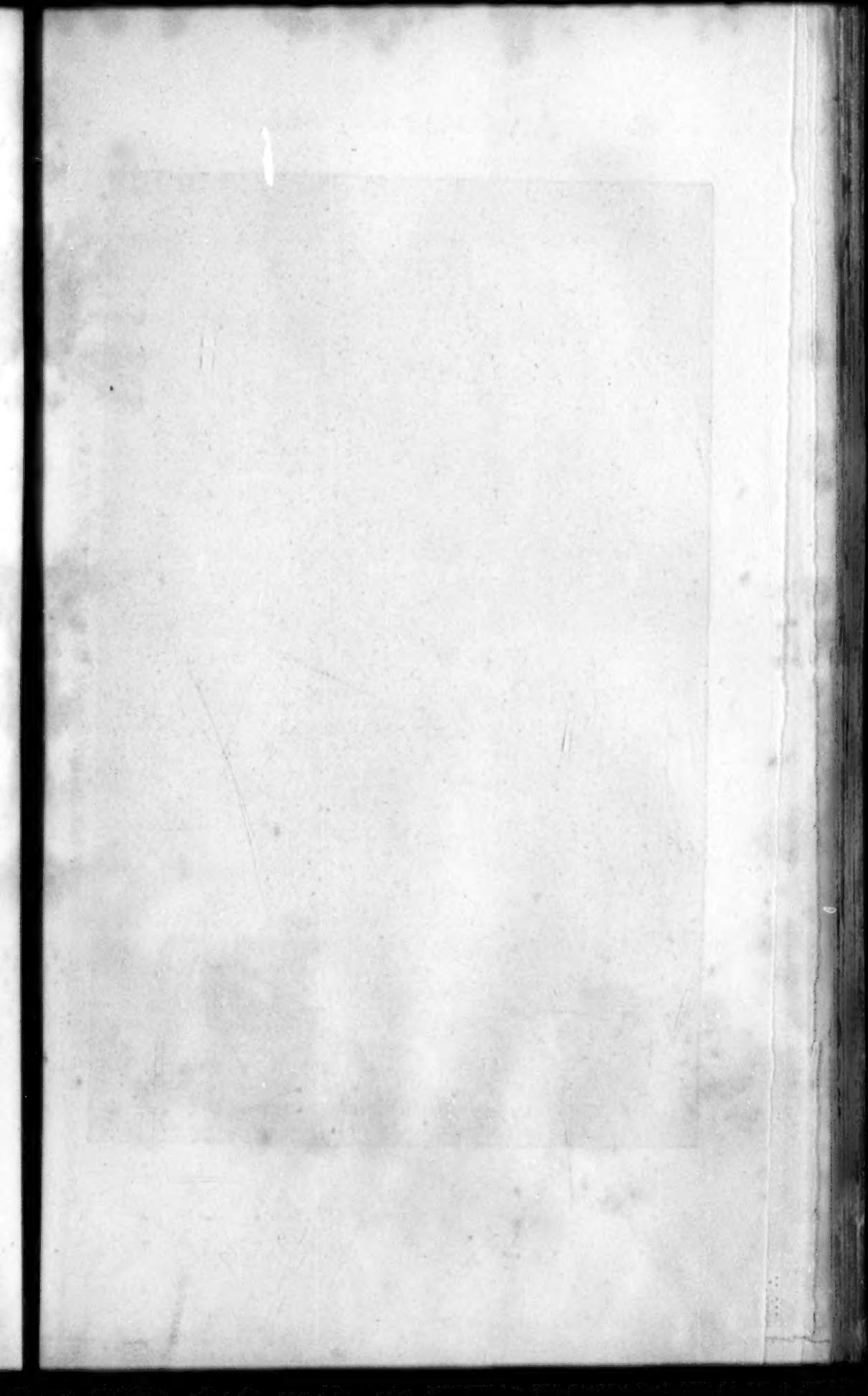
1631. Laws enacted in Massachusetts denying many civil privileges to all but church members. Portsmouth settled by a Mr. Williams, under Gorges and Mason. Bagnal killed by Squidrayset, chief of the Tarratines, for some offence. Claybourne settles the isle of Kent, in Maryland.

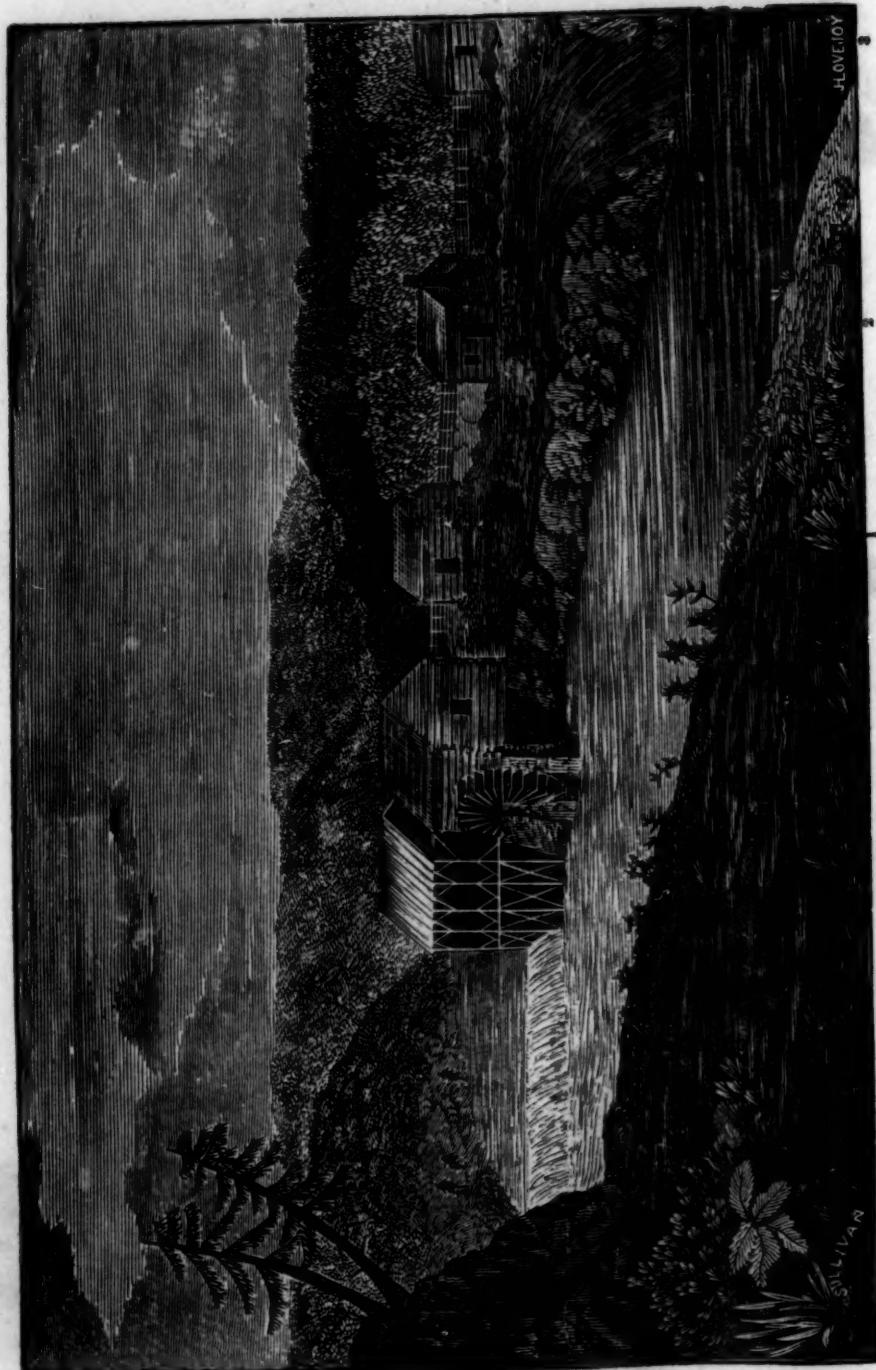
1632. Captain John Smith dies in London, aged fifty-one. War between the French at Arcade and the English colonists at Plymouth. Maryland granted to lord Baltimore by charter. War between the Wampanoag and Narraganset Indians; also between the latter and the Pequots.

1633. Chikataubut, sachem of Shawmut, and several other sachems die of the small pox. Monatahqua, sachem of Nahant, is cruelly hanged in revenge for the death of Bagnal. The king attempts to stop emigration to the colonies, but fails. Georgia settled.

1634. The Pequots kill several Englishmen. Leonard Calvert settles St. Mary's, in Maryland, and establishes religious toleration. The Pequot Indians divide, hence the nation of Mohegans. The people of Massachusetts, contrary to charter, elect delegates to act in concert with the governor.

1635. Roger Williams, a clergyman of Salem, flies from his own countrymen to escape persecution—settles in Rhode Island and brings about a peace between the Wampanoags and the Narragansets, of whom he purchased a tract of land.





WOLF CREEK MILLS IN 1789.

